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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,310	12/01/2003	Satoshi Okano	KON-1837	2916
20311	7590	02/21/2006	EXAMINER	
LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP 475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH 15TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016			LE, HOA VAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1752	

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

This application is in response to Papers filed on 12 and 14 January 2006.

I. The elected invention of claims 1, 2 and 5-9 with respect to the elected and applies species are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuykendall et al (6,534,253) considered in view of Kamada et al (5,534,395).

Kuykendall et al disclose, teach and suggest a (combined function) bleach-fixing composition having a pH solution of from 4 to 10 and comprising up to 3 mol/l and up to 100 mol% of a silver ion bleachable (oxidizer-able) agent being ferrous (Fe^{2+}) salt of an aminopolycarboxylic acid and up to 5 mol/l of a thiosulfate as a fixing (silver halide solvent) agent and conventional additives. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Kuykendall et al at col.10:56-67, 4:50-52, 5:43-44, 7:23-25 and 39-64, 8:9-31, Table 1.

Kuykendall et al disclose, teach and suggest the conventionally bleach-fixing additives but do not specify imidazole containing compounds as that in claim 1 and the general formula 1 in claim 2. However, Kamada et al at col.3:6-15 and discloses, teaches and suggests the use of from 0.02 to 2 mol/l of imidazole containing compounds in a bleach-fixing composition for the advantage of a

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whiteness improvement in a rapid process using a reduced amount of a bleach-fixing replenisher Table 13 and col.69:23-27.

Since the above references are all related to silver halide color photographic materials and their desilvering processes using the combined function bleach-fixing compositions to obtain stable color images, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use or cite imidazole containing compound from Kamada et al for a reasonable expectation of obtaining a whiteness improvement in a rapid process using a reduced amount of a bleach-fixing replenisher as disclosed, taught, suggested and obtained in Kamada et al.

II. Applicant's arguments filed 12 July 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant relies on the showings under Rule 132 for the patentability of the claims.

They have been carefully considered in the next paragraph.

III. Applicants' declaration under Rule 132 filed on 20 July 2002 has been fully considered but is insufficient to overcome the applied references of the record. The

evidence is not commensurate in scope with the claims (Please see MPEP 716.02(d)).

(1) The instant claims have not been reasonably limited to the use of about 0.01 to 2.5 mol/l of an imidazole compound.

(2) The showings with respect to whiteness and stain reduction are not disclosed, taught or suggested in the primary reference with respect Kuykendall et al (6,534,253). But they are disclosed, taught, suggested, obtained, demonstrated and reduced to practice in the applied secondary reference with respect to Kamada et al (5,534,395) as clearly pointed out and set forth on the record. Repeats of same or about the same finding whiteness and stain reductions as disclosed, taught, suggest, obtained, demonstrated and reduced to practice from one of the applied set of the references are not new, novel or unexpected feature for a patentability of the claims. It may be a routine practice for an optimum result of a known property of the known chemical ingredient (imidazole compound in a known bleach-fixing composition).

(3) The tests are limited use the chemical composition in Table V in Kuykendall et al for the patentability of the claims. Since the patentability of the claims is based on the limited showing of the chemical composition In Table V in Kuykendall et al, no patentable value would be considered or given beyond the

chemical composition (with respect to the reasonable in the art of (i) the same chemical and adjacent homologous compound(s) and (ii) about the same amount (with + and – about 0.01%) and procedure as tested.

(4) The instant claims have not been reasonably limited to the use of about 113.75 g/l of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid and about 101.88 g/l of ferrous sulfate heptahydrate (20%) and about 226 g/l of ammonium sulfate as tested.

(5) The tests use the chemical composition in Table V in Kuykendall et al for the patentability of the claims is improper because it is not shown to be able to effectively oxidized silver halide, such as silver iodide, in a photographic material for sufficient silver removal since the tested chemical composition is a bleach-fixing precursor only. Applicants should show or provide a convincing evidence to the contrary for the record and for the patentability of the claims.

For the above reasons the showings are incomplete, improper and much broader than those in the claims.

Applicants continuously fail the showings to the broad limitations of the claims as clearly pointed out and set forth on the record.

It would like to see tested results to be carry out with mixing of (*) about 0.5 to 4 mol/l of a fixing agent as disclosed on page 40, (**) about 0.036 and 0.252 mol/l of ferric salt of an aminopolycarboxylic acid (bleaching or oxidizing agent)

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on page 69, (***) about 0.18 and 0.288 mol/l ferrous salt of an aminopolycarboxylic acid (bleach or oxidizing precursor) on page 69, (****) about 0.01 to 2.5 mol/l of an imidazole compound on page 14 and (*****) a ratio of iron ions to aminopolycarboxylic ions being about 1.01 to 1.00 on page 12 of the instant application of whiteness and stain reduction tests. The instant claims should be limited to the tested chemical ingredients and their adjacent homologue and about their amounts (with + and - of 0.01%) as tested to be reasonable commensurate in scope. It is again clearly pointed out, notified and set forth the record.

IV. This is a Request for Continued Examination of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/725,310. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

V. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa V. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1332.

The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Monday through Thursday and about the same time of most Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526.

Applicants may file a paper by (1) fax with a central facsimile receiving number 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private

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PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hoa V. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

HVL
16 February 2006

HOA VAN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
